

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A process for producing a cold-rolled ferritic/martensitic dual-phase steel strip, wherein a slab, the chemical composition of which comprises, by weight:

$$\cancel{0.01}00.020\% \leq C \leq \cancel{1.00}0.060\%$$

$$\cancel{0.05}00.300\% \leq Mn \leq \cancel{1.00}0.500\%$$

$$0.010\% \leq Cr \leq 1.0\%$$

$$0.010\% \leq Si \leq 0.50\%$$

$$\cancel{0.001}0.010\% \leq P \leq \cancel{0.200}0.100\%$$

$$0.010\% \leq Al \leq 0.10\%$$

$$N \leq 0.010\%$$

the balance being iron and impurities resulting from the smelting, is hot rolled, said process then comprising:

- coiling the hot-rolled strip obtained at a temperature of between 550 and 850°C;

then

- cold rolling the strip with a reduction ratio of between 60 and 90%; then
- annealing the strip continuously in the intercritical range; and
- cooling it down to the ambient temperature in one or more steps, the cooling rate between 600°C and the ambient temperature being between 100°C/s and 1500°C/s; and
- optionally tempering it at a temperature less than 250°C,

the annealing and cooling operations being carried out in such a way that the strip finally contains from 1 to 15% martensite.

2. (canceled).

3. (previously presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the strip is hot rolled at a temperature above 850°C.

4. (previously presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the strip is hot rolled at a temperature of between 550 and 750°C.

5. (previously presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the strip is cold rolled with a reduction ratio of between 70 and 80%.

6. (previously presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the continuous annealing of the cold-rolled strip comprises a temperature rise phase followed by a soak phase at a predetermined temperature.

7. (original): The process as claimed in claim 6, wherein the soak temperature is between A_{c1} and 900°C.

8. (original): The process as claimed in claim 7, wherein the soak temperature is between 750 and 850°C.

9. (previously presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cooling down to the ambient temperature comprises a first, slow cooling step between the soak temperature and 600°C, during which the cooling rate is less than 50°C/s, followed by a second cooling step at a higher rate, of between 100°C/s and 1500°C/s, down to the ambient temperature.

10. (original): The process as claimed in claim 9, wherein the second cooling step is carried out by water quenching.

11. (previously presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cooling is carried out in a single operation at a cooling rate of between 100°C/s and 1500°C/s.

12. (original): The process as claimed in claim 11, wherein the cooling is carried out by water quenching.